

South West Clinical Senate Council Meeting Thursday 12th December 2013 Taunton Rugby Ground, Taunton

Notes/Actions

Present: Attendee's List attached

Apologies: Sarah Watson-Fisher, Deepak Gupta, Matthew Mulloy, Alex Allwood

Peter Murphy, Peter Whitfield, Ray Sinclair.

1. Welcome and Introductions	VL
Vaughan Lewis (VL) welcomed all to the first South West Clinical Senate	
Meeting. He told the meeting that he had been appointed as the Chair of	
the Senate in May 2013 and is a paediatrician at the Royal Devon and	
Exeter Foundation Trust. He introduced Mirella Fox, the attending	
Stenographer. Each member was then asked to introduce themselves. A	
request was made for each member to receive a contact list of attendees.	
2. Setting the Scene	CG
Caroline Gamlin (CG) presented the national policy background to Clinical Senates. She told the meeting that Senates were a recommendation that arose from the Future Forum discussion on the Health and Social Care Bill and that the Senate is a means of bringing together a wide range of professional experience, 'by achievement and reputation'. She noted that there has been strong interest in the Senate and she felt that it had gathered a robust group at its core, which should enable it to function effectively.	
The purpose of Clinical Senate was to engage the statutory commissioners in order to identify areas with potential for improving outcomes. CG noted the role of the Senate is to mediate on behalf of their populations to implement good practice, to be a source of clinical leadership and credibility, to have a pro-active role in promoting major service change, to link clinical expertise and local knowledge, such as patient pathways and to engage with clinical networks.	
3.1 Discuss and approve draft operating principles, terms of reference and membership	
The group were asked to consider the draft Operating Principles for the	
Senate, which had been circulated in advance. There was a broad ranging	
discussion about the membership of the Senate Council and its ability to	
hear and to voice all of the professionals and organisations it comprised.	
CG reminded the group that the Senate was a collective body of	
professional opinion and it was not the purpose of the Senate to have	
each organisation represented.	
It was noted that there was a discrepancy in the numbers of salests d	
It was noted that there was a discrepancy in the numbers of selected members of the Council between the Draft Principles and the Senate	
Terms of Reference. VL commented that in trying to achieve geographical	
breadth and clearly acknowledging the strong leadership experience of the	
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applicants to the Senate, the group was larger than expected. It would be responsibility of the Senate Council, once it has worked through the full TOR over the next few months to decide the process for appointing or selecting members.

In the meantime, to ensure the effective operation of the Senate, the current membership of the Senate Council will continue for a period of 12 months. It was suggested that a phased approach is adopted to appointing/selecting new members so as to retain and 'handover' expertise from the first year of the Senate.

A strong communication strategy ensuring the engagement of all parts of the health and social care communities in the South West was recommended. Virginia Pearson (VP) and others voiced concern about the lack of engagement with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (HOSCs) and advised that the work of the Senate was communicated early on. Similar comments were made about Health and Well Being Boards and Adrian James (AJ) asked if they should be included as members. VL noted the recommendations.

Action:

Senate Management Team were asked to establish a communication strategy including a process for engaging with the HOSCs and the HWBBs.

The meeting discussed the role of the Senate in providing advice to commissioners and the process by which questions raised with the Senate would be brought to the Senate Council. This has not been made explicit in the Draft Operating Principles and needs further work. There were a number of suggestions from experienced Council members who had acted in advisory roles in national bodies such as NICE about delivering advice effectively and without delay. These and others need to be considered as the Senate evolves its workings. VL agreed that the suggestions were really helpful in thinking through the next iteration of the Operating Principles, which will therefore remain in draft.

Action:

Senate Management Team to iterate the Draft Operating principles to include

- The membership of the senate council and the process for appointment/selection/election
- The relationship with the Senate Assembly

3.2 Public attendance at Senate Council Deliberative meetings

Chris Burton (CB) noted that in the section on public attendance at the Senate Council, the deliberative discussion will be held in camera. He was concerned that this would go against the aim of the Senate to be inclusive and transparent. Patrick Canavan (PC) and Christin Teller (CT), patient members, amongst others raised similar concerns. Others felt that while there was a need to hold the meetings in public, being in camera during the discussion would lead to an open debate and that patient members were included in this discussion. After robust debate VL summarized that the meetings will be held in public, with members of the public being able to hear the evidence, including patient and public evidence, presented to the Senate Council and, if appropriate to criticise. The deliberative component of the meetings would be recorded but not held in public.

Action:

The Senate Management Team to draw clear rules for public attendance and ensure that the communication strategy takes account of this in it's development

3.3. Quorate attendance for deliberative meetings

The quorum for attendance at Senate deliberations was agreed at 51% though VL hoped that having sent out dates a year in advance, members would be able to commit the time to enable the breadth of representation.

4 Process for receiving, prioritising and agreeing questions

Caroline Gamlin explained the process that has been agreed thus far for receiving, prioritising and agreeing the questions for Senate's deliberations. She outlined the engagement event in September through which some of the emergent issues for the Senate had been agreed. Broadly there was consensus that early on the Senate should address the issue of specialized commissioning, and suggestions from CCG representatives present that the Senate should seek to address the urgent care and frail elderly. But these are broad themes and if the Senate is to address them credibly, then it will need to seek clarity on the exact question.

SB noted that within the first few drafts of the Senate Draft Principles had addressed the issue of getting questions to the Senate & that this needed to form part of the overall communications strategy. Further work on this issue will be completed once the new Senate Manager, Ellie Devine is in post alongside other issues that have been highlighted as being outstanding.

At present, it is commissioners, specialised, CCG and direct commissioners who are responsible for bringing questions to the Senate. Emergent themes include; developing the principles for implementation of the specialised services specifications in the South West (the topic for today). The Senate Council will need to develop its work programme for the forthcoming year and this will be done in consultation with the Senate Assembly.

Action:

The Senate Management Team is to

- describe a detailed process of bringing and prioritising questions
- begin the process for developing the work programme for the Senate

12th December 2013 Senate Council Meeting Attendance

	12th December 2013 Senate Council Meeting Attendance Standing Members				
Name	Email	Job Title	Organisation		
Vaughan	Linaii	JOB TICK	organisation		
Lewis	vaughanlewis@nhs.net	Chair of the Senate			
Shelagh	shelagh.mccormick@nhs.n	Vice Chair of the			
McCormick	et	Senate			
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